amnesty international

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EUR/AB/PW

Mr. Salem Azzam
Islamic Council
16 Grosvenor Crescent
London SW1 7EP

22 March 1983

Dear Mr. Azzam,

Thank you for your letter of 18 March. Amnesty International appealed for the release of Mr. Erbakan and other members of the National Salvation Party when they were in prison. If they are returned to prison we would certainly regard them as prisoners of conscience and work for their release, but we think that they may remain at liberty until their appeals against their convictions have been heard. Before taking any action we would like to be informed whether or not they have been re-imprisoned. If you are able to provide this information I would be grateful to hear from you.

On another matter, I have just received the Appeal for a Universal Amnesty for All Prisoners of Conscience which you signed. We are, of course, seeking the widest possible support for this initiative and appreciate your endorsement. I am taking the liberty of including the Appeal in Arabic and some further information about it. If the Islamic Council would like to draw the appeal to the attention of its members or arrange for its circulation for wider signature, we would be happy to assist in any way.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Hammarberg
Secretary General

Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights movement which works impartially for the release of prisoners of conscience: men and women detained anywhere for their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin, sex, religion or language, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. Amnesty International opposes torture and the death penalty in all cases without reservation and advocates fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners. Amnesty International is independent of all governments, political factions, ideologies, economic interests and religious creeds. It is financed by its membership and by subscriptions from all parts of the world. Amnesty International has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), UNESCO and the Council of Europe, has cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of